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HOUSE MEMORIAL 121

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ORIENTAL MEDICINE, INCLUDING
ORIENTAL MEDICINE EXPANDED PRACTICE, AS A VITAL FORM OF HEALTH
CARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, doctors of oriental medicine, including doctors
of oriental medicine certified for expanded practice, have
provided New Mexico residents with effective, essential health
care services for decades; and

WHEREAS, the practice of oriental medicine has evolved
over thousands of years, making it the most mature system of
health care in the world; and

WHEREAS, oriental medicine continues to evolve in the
United States, and most notably in New Mexico, where a variety
of diverse and effective health care traditions are
consistently upheld and respected; and

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1 WHEREAS, since 1981, the New Mexico legislature has
2 acknowledged the importance of oriental medicine by supporting
3 a variety of measures that ensure that New Mexicans can choose
4 both traditional and expanded approaches to oriental medicine;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the practice of oriental medicine now includes an
7 expanded component of practice that requires additional
8 education and training; and

9 WHEREAS, a number of doctors of oriental medicine are now
10 certified in expanded oriental medicine practice and are
11 authorized for a specifically defined scope of practice that
12 has evolved and been established over many years; and

13 WHEREAS, there has never been a disciplinary action
14 against any New Mexico doctor of oriental medicine certified
15 for expanded practice;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that oriental
18 medicine, including oriental medicine expanded practice, be
19 recognized as an important form of health care treatment for
20 the people of New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature acknowledge
22 that the profession of doctor of oriental medicine, including
23 doctor of oriental medicine expanded practice, has a record of
24 providing reliable and effective treatment and that this
25 profession can be safely regulated by the board of acupuncture

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1 and oriental medicine without additional oversight by any other
2 health care professional board; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of acupuncture and
4 oriental medicine should retain the sole authority to regulate
5 the scope of practice and prescriptive authority provided for
6 in the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Practice Act; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulation and licensing
8 department and the board of acupuncture and oriental medicine
9 be requested to review the process by which they determine when
10 it is appropriate to attempt to restrict an established scope
11 of practice either by proposed regulation or by proposed
12 legislation; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the board of acupuncture and oriental medicine,
15 the board of pharmacy, the superintendent of regulation and
16 licensing, the attorney general and the governor.